

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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December 14, 2009

Dear State Lead Agency, Tribal, and Territory Representative:

This e-mail will be your only form of communication regarding the forthcoming conference.

We would like to invite your agency to participate in the "Pesticide Container/Containment Rules and Regulations" *Pesticide Inspector Residential Training (PIRT) Program* hosted by the Washington State Department of Agriculture and Washington State University Pesticide Safety Education Program, in conjunction with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This program is designed to help inspectors understand the new EPA Container/Containment regulations that have been in effect since August 17, 2009. The agenda covers both the containment standards (two-thirds of the program) and container requirements, including repackaging and labeling. The program will be held in Spokane, Washington from March 28 – April 1, 2010.

The target audience of this program is experienced pesticide inspectors and field supervisors that conduct pesticide inspections for compliance. While we would like a mix of states with their own container/containment programs and states without programs, preference will be given to states establishing new programs. We are seeking individuals who can go back to their areas and have a positive impact on training other inspectors in your state, tribe, or territory. The objective of the course is to provide pesticide inspectors with updated information in conducting pesticide container containment inspections. For more information about this PIRT Program, please visit http://pep.wsu.edu/pirt.

The agenda includes some lectures, but is heavily geared toward group discussions and includes two site visits to view containment structures. The working group will review all nominations for selection, and participants will receive a formal acceptance letter.

Classes begin on Monday, March 29th and conclude on Thursday, April 1st with March 28th and April 2nd serving as travel days. All airline transportation, hotel, and meals associated with attending the training will be paid by Washington State University (WSU). Participants are responsible for incidental expenses, such as telephone charges or an extra night hotel stay. Per diem expenses will be reimbursed according to the WSU per diem rates. Enclosed is a nomination form for submitting the name of one representative and one alternate from your agency or tribe. If you have attended this course, or a similar course, we ask that someone else from your agency attend. Once the nomination form has been received, selected participants will be notified of their confirmation and additional information will be sent on travel, lodging, final program agenda, etc.

Please submit a nominee form listing your representative's information by **Monday, January 11, 2010.** You can register online at http://pep.wsu.edu/pirt. Fill out the pdf file electronically and either print it or fax to 509-335-1009 OR save the filled out form to your computer and email it as an attachment to Wendy Sue Wheeler at wsw.edu. We are looking forward to having your nominee attend this training opportunity.

If you have any questions pertaining to this program, please feel free to contact Cliff Weed, Washington State Department of Agriculture, at 360-902-2036 or Wendy Sue Wheeler, Washington State University Pesticide Safety Education Program, at 509-335-2830.

Sincerely,

PESTICIDE MANAGEMENT DIVISION

Cliff Weed Compliance Program Manager

Cliff Weed